

REMARKS

This Amendment and Response to Final Office Action is being submitted in response to the final Office Action mailed October 27, 2005. Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 9-11, 15, 16, 18, 19 and 21-24 are pending in the Application. Claims 23 and 24 stand rejected. Specifically, Claims 23 and 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Clupper et al. (US 6,309,742) in view of Allen et al. (US 6,410,847), Webb (US 6,542,371), and Eckblad et al. (US 6,390,475).

Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 9-11, 15, 16, 18, 19, 21, and 22 have now been allowed.

In response to the above rejection, Claims 23 and 24 have been canceled.

In view of these amendments (cancellations), Applicant submits that none of the references cited, alone or in combination, disclose, teach, or suggest the combination of elements/limitations claimed in the Application.

CONCLUSION

Applicant would like to thank Examiner for the attention and consideration accorded the present Application. Should Examiner determine that any further action is necessary to place the Application in condition for allowance, Examiner is encouraged to contact undersigned Counsel at the telephone number, facsimile number, address, or email address provided below. It is not believed that any fees for additional claims, extensions of time, or the like are required beyond those that may otherwise be indicated in the documents accompanying this paper. However, if such additional fees are required, Examiner is encouraged to notify undersigned Counsel at Examiner's earliest convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: November 11, 2005

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C L Bernard', is written over a horizontal line.

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